

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5-9, 11, 14-18, 20 and 21 are pending in this application, of which Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, and 21 are independent. Claims 2, 5-7, 11 and 14 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Initially, Applicant respectfully requests priority acknowledgment. Applicant filed a Claim to Priority, with certified copies of his four priority application, on May 1, 2000, as evidenced by a return postcard with the Patent and Trademark Office Mail Room stamp with that date. To date, the Office has not acknowledged either the claim to priority benefit, or the filing of the certified copies. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner provide such acknowledgment with his next paper. If for any reason the Examiner does not do so, he is respectfully requested to provide an explanation as to why he cannot do so.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 5-9, 11, 14-18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0012521 A1 (Nagasaka et al.), in view of U.S. Patent 6,608,964 B1 (Saito).

Independent Claim 6 is directed to an image processing apparatus for processing a moving picture having scene-change information. The apparatus of Claim 6 comprises designating means for designating an image that corresponds to a scene that is the object of a search and the number of scenes included in a moving picture, and comparison means for comparing a scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene-change information with the image designated by the designation means. Also

provided are scene extraction means for extracting a scene from the number of scenes designated by the designation means, that corresponds to the image based upon a result of the comparison performed by the comparison means, and output means for combining each of the moving pictures extracted by said scene extraction means into a single moving picture.

Among other important features of an apparatus constructed according to Claim 6, is means that extract specific moving pictures including to a scene corresponding to an image that is the object of a search from a plurality of moving-picture materials by designating the number or time length of scenes, and combine the specific moving pictures into a single moving picture. By virtue of the features of such apparatus, by just a one-time operation for designating the number or time length of scenes included in a moving picture, moving pictures can be extracted from a plurality of moving-picture materials, each of which has scenes of the designated the number or time of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the designated image. Therefore, a single moving picture comprising the extracted moving pictures can be generated.

For example, when one week of TV programs is recorded, serial dramas, which have been televised every day for thirty minutes, can be extracted from the TV programs just by designating time length (thirty minutes), combined and output as a single moving picture. Therefore, a user can watch successively all of those serial dramas by reproducing the single moving picture that has been made in this fashion.

Nagasaka has been discussed extensively in previous papers. The *Nagasaka* apparatus can extract a given single scene such as the opening scene of a news TV program,

which is a fixed scene. However, since *Nagasaka* makes no provision to permit a user to designate a number of scenes or a time length of scenes to be extracted, the *Nagasaka* apparatus cannot extract a plurality of serial scenes each of which has different contents, as can be done with an apparatus according to Claim 6.

Saito relates to an editing apparatus for extracting pictures from among picture information from a current position to a destination position on the basis of information such as extraction time. However, *Saito* does not suggest, or provide means for, extracting plural moving pictures just by a one-time operation of designating a number or time length of the desired scenes and combining the extracted moving pictures into a single picture.

Therefore, a combination of *Nagasaka* and *Saito*, even assuming such combination would be proper, would not teach or suggest the mentioned feature recited in Claim 6, namely extracting specific moving pictures including to a scene corresponding to an image that is the object of a search from a plurality of moving-picture materials by designating the number or time length of scenes, and combining the specific moving pictures into a single moving picture. For tat least that reason, Claim 6 is believed to be clearly allowable over those two patents, taken separately or in any permissible combination.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to an image processing apparatus for processing a moving picture having scene-change information. The apparatus of Claim 7 comprises designating means for designating an image that corresponds to a scene that is the object of a search and time length, and comparison means for comparing a

scene-change frame obtained by referring to the scene-change information, with the image designated by the designation means. Also provided are scene extraction means for extracting a moving pictures, each of which has scenes of the time length of scenes and includes a scene corresponding to the image designated by designation means based upon a result of the comparison performed by the comparison means, and output means for combining each of the moving pictures extracted by the scene extraction means into a single moving picture.

Among other important features of Claim 7, is the extraction means, which extracts scenes based in part on the time length (duration) of the scenes being selected, as well as on based on correspondence to a scene designated as the object for the search. Claim 7 is therefore also believed to be allowable over *Nagasaka* and *Saito* for the same reasons as is Claim 6.

Independent Claims 15, 16, 20 and 21 are each respectively a method or a computer memory medium claim corresponding either to apparatus Claim 6 or to apparatus Claim 7, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claims 6 and 7, respectively.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

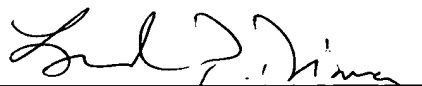
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the

same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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